

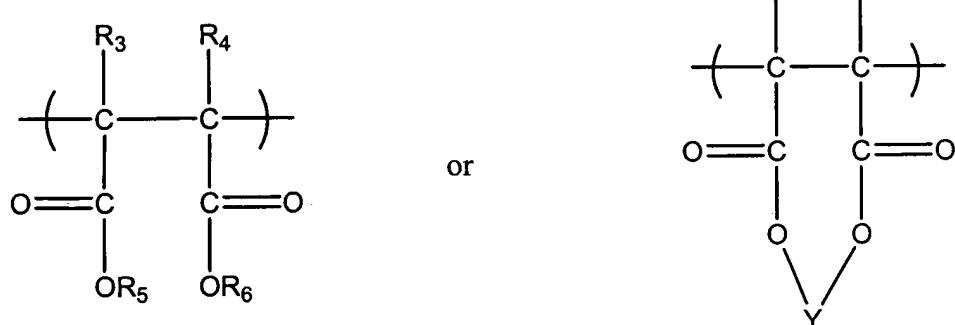
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

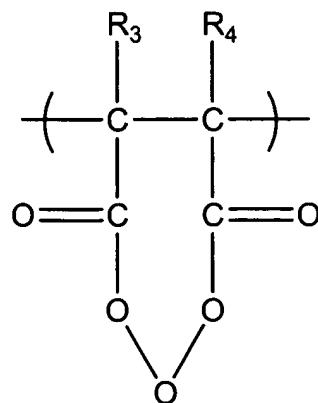
Listing of Claims:

1-14 (Withdrawn)

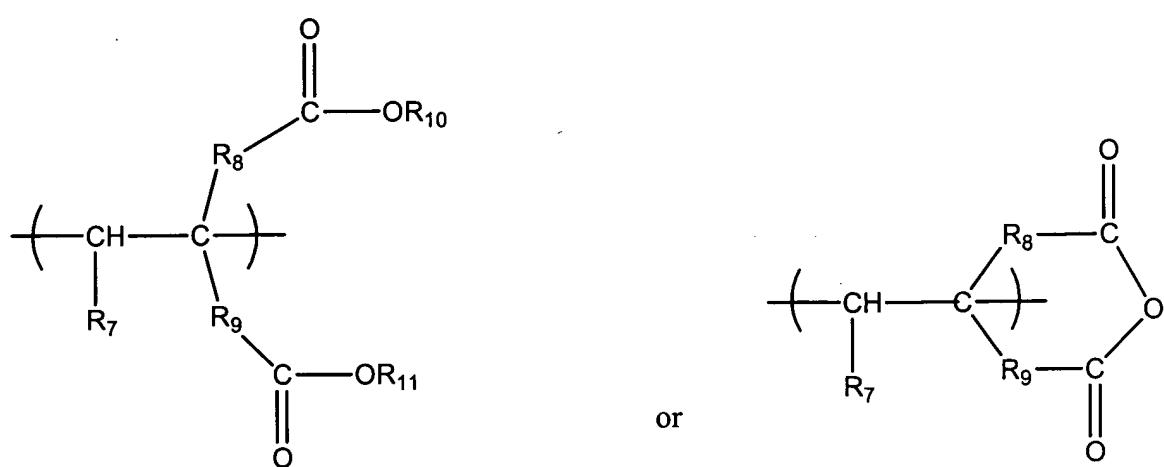
15. (Original) A composition for enhancing plant growth comprising a fertilizer product and a substantially water-soluble dicarboxylic acid polymer having recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, wherein moiety B is of the general formula

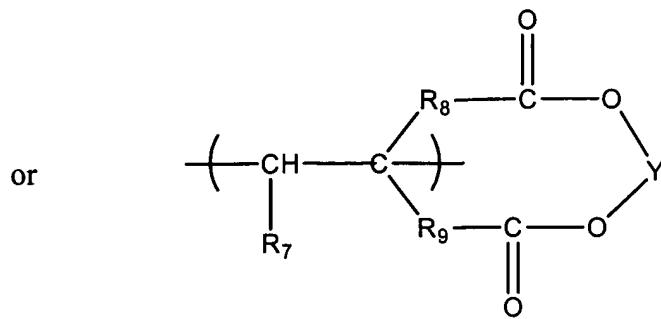


or



and moiety C is of the general formula





wherein each R_7 is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{30}$ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{30}$ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, $\text{R}'\text{CO}_2$ groups, OR' groups and COOX groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{30}$ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl ammonium groups, R_3 and R_4 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{30}$ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R_5 , R_6 , R_{10} and R_{11} are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R_8 and R_9 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH_2 , C_2H_4 , and C_3H_6 , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and said polymer in its polymerized form being at least partially

ethylenically saturated.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein R₃-R₄ are respectively and individually selected from the group consisting of H, OH and C₁-C₄ straight and branched chain alkyl groups, R₅, R₆ and X are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of the alkali metals.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being complexed with an ion.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17, said ion being selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being in a form selected from the group consisting of a liquid dispersion or a granular form.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer and fertilizer being co-ground together.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being applied to the surface of said fertilizer.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said fertilizer being in the form of particles having an average diameter of from about powder size to about 10 cm.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being present with said fertilizer product at a level of from about 0.001 g to about 20 g polymer per 100 g fertilizer.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being applied at a rate of at least 5 ppm.